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amnesty international

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Direct line:

Salem Azzam
Secretary General
The Islamic Council
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2 October 1986

Dear Dr Azzam,

Thank you for your letter to Thomas Hammarberg of 29 September concerning torture in Egypt.

Amnesty International shares your concern over reports of torture which have been received by the organization in recent weeks. The organization has made its concerns clear to the Egyptian authorities about this matter, and has sought assurances that urgent measures will be taken to prevent torture of detainees, and that all allegations of torture will be independently investigated.

The organization is actively seeking further information about recent incidents of reported torture in Egypt. If your organization receives information which you believe may be of use to Amnesty International please do not hesitate to contact us.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Neil Hicks
Middle East Research Department

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Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working impartially for the release of all prisoners of conscience, fair and prompt trials for political prisoners and an end to torture and executions. It is funded by donations from its members and supporters throughout the world. It has formal relations with the United Nations, Unesco, the Council of Europe, the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of American States.

2) ICJ
3) Kiss
4) Youssoufi
5) Carla M.
6) Paris
7) Arab Org for HR / Geneva
8) LO Archbury
9) UN, Geneva.

المجلس الاسلامي
Islamic Council

29 September 1986

For the past several weeks, we have been receiving highly disturbing reports concerning the intensification of the use of torture by Mubarak's regime to stifle civil liberties and to suppress human rights. According to these reports, the regime seems hell bent on crushing by force every kind of dissent to its highly unpopular and undemocratic policies. To achieve this unworthy aim, the regime continues to use with ever-increasing ruthlessness a wide range of acts of torture. These include pulling out finger nails, giving electric shocks, burning with cigarettes, hanging upside down, severe physical beatings in dungeons and specially built torture tunnels, and many others.

As a relatively mild example of what is happening in Egypt today, I am enclosing two pictures which illustrate dissidents being tortured by Mubarak's torture machine. These were published by Al Wafd (Cairo) on 18 September 1986.

I am writing to you to invite you to look into this grave situation and join us in protest to Mubarak, to try to convince him that a regime marked by respect for human rights and democracy is a far better alternative than one marked by tyranny and torture.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

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